



West Valley City **POLICE**



A Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency

Office of Chief Lee W. Russo

3575 South Market Street, West Valley City, Utah, 84119

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: June 17, 2017

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At approximately 9:30pm on June 16, 2017, West Valley City Police Officers working WestFest at Centennial Park (5355 W 3100 S) responded to reports of a gathering crowd and series of fights and disorderly persons. During the altercation three people were stabbed. One male was stabbed in the chest and was transported to an area hospital in critical condition. In the same altercation, two other males were stabbed; one male was stabbed in the back and was transported to an area hospital in stable condition. Another male suffered cut wounds to his hands and forearms and was transported to an area hospital for treatment. All victims are males in their late teens to early 20's. No specific information on their ages is available at this time. No further information is available at this time regarding the conditions of the victims.

Following this assault, additional officers responded to assist with crowd control and to help break up the fight. The suspects in this case could not be located and no arrests were made related to this incident.

Separately, but within the same crowd, a second fight occurred that resulted in one man being arrested. George Tautuaa, DOB 2/21/77, was booked into the Salt Lake County Jail for assault. Also within the same crowd, but separate from the original incident, a juvenile was taken into custody and booked for inciting a riot and assault.

As officers worked to investigate the initial fight and stabbing, as well as control a gathering crowd, another fight broke out. This incident resulted in the use of pepper spray by officers in an effort to break up the fight. Two juveniles were taken into custody and then released. They will be referred for charges.

WestFest is a fun, community tradition that is enjoyed by many families and individuals in our city. We are disappointed that an episode of violence marred last night's festivities, however, the safety of the visitors to this festival is a top priority for our police department. As such, we have one dozen

extra duty police officers assigned specifically to ensure safety and security at this event. These officers are also augmented by law enforcement personnel from other Salt Lake County law enforcement entities who will be in attendance and working to support our safety and security efforts. WestFest will be closely monitored to ensure that it remains an event that is safe for all to enjoy.

West Valley City Police Chief Lee Russo will be available for interview regarding this topic outside the West Valley City Police West Substation, 5315 West 3100 South, at 1:00pm today, Saturday, June 17, 2017.

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